

and gas reserves are to be reported annually. Many U.S. government agencies have an interest in the definitions of proved oil and gas reserves and the quality, reliability, and usefulness of estimates of reserves. Among these are the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), Department of Energy; Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), Department of Interior; Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Department of the Treasury; and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Each of these organizations has specific purposes for collecting, using, or estimating proved reserves. EIA has a congressional mandate to provide accurate annual estimates of U.S. proved crude oil, natural gas, and natural gas liquids reserves, and EIA presents annual reserves data in EIA Web reports to meet this requirement. The BOEM maintains estimates of proved reserves to carry out their responsibilities in leasing, collecting royalty payments, and regulating the activities of oil and gas companies on Federal lands and water. Accurate reserve estimates are important, as the BOEM is second only to the IRS in generating Federal revenue. For the IRS, proved reserves and occasionally probable reserves are an essential component of calculating taxes for companies owning or producing oil and gas. The SEC requires publicly traded petroleum companies to annually file a reserves statement as part of their 10-K filing. The basic purpose of the 10-K filing is to provide public investors with a clear and reliable financial basis to assess the relative value, as a financial asset, of a company's reserves, especially in comparison to other similar oil and gas companies.

The Government also uses the resulting information to develop national and regional estimates of proved reserves of domestic crude oil, natural gas, and natural gas liquids to facilitate national energy policy decisions. These estimates are essential to the development, implementation, and evaluation of energy policy and legislation. Data are used directly in EIA Web reports concerning U.S. crude oil, natural gas, and natural gas liquids reserves, and are incorporated into a number of other Web reports and analyses.

EIA proposes to make the following changes to Form EIA-23L, *Annual Survey of Domestic Oil and Gas Reserves, Field Level Report*:

- Change the title of Form EIA-23L to *Annual Survey of Domestic Oil and Gas Reserves, County Level Report*;

- Change the title of Schedule A to *Operated Proved Reserves, Production, and Related Data by County*;

- Operators will be instructed to file their proved reserves by county rather than by field. Line Item 2.0 will be named "County Data (operated basis);"

- Line Item 2.1.4 "Field Code", will be changed to "County Name;"

- Line Item 2.1.5 "MMS Code" will be changed to "Type Code;"

- Line Item 2.1.6. "Field Name" will be changed to "Field, Play, or Prospect Name (Optional);"

- Line Items 2.1.9 "water depth" and 2.1.10 "field discovery year" will be replaced with 2.1.9 "# of producing wells", 2.1.10 "# of wells added [in survey year];" and

- Line Item 2.1.11, "Prospect Name (optional)" will be replaced with "# of wells sold [in survey year]."

Comments and Feedback are requested on these proposed changes to Form EIA-23L.

Secondary reports that use the data include EIA's *Annual Energy Review*, *Annual Energy Outlook*, *Petroleum Supply Annual*, and *Natural Gas Annual*.

(5) *Annual Estimated Number of Respondents*:

Forms EIA-23L/23S/64A: 1,450.

(6) *Annual Estimated Number of Total Responses*:

Forms EIA-23L/23S/64A: 1,450.

(7) *Annual Estimated Number of Burden Hours*: 41,210.

Form EIA-23L *Annual Survey of Domestic Oil and Gas Reserves, County Level Report*:

38 hours (420 intermediate-size operators); 110 hours (160 large operators); 15 hours (270 small operators); 37,610 hours.

Form EIA-23S *Annual Survey of Domestic Oil and Gas Reserves, Summary Level Report*: 4 hours (small operators); 0 hours (Currently suspended).

Form EIA-64A *Annual Report of the Origin of Natural Gas Liquids Production*: 6 hours (600 natural gas plant operators); 3,600 hours.

(8) *Annual Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping Cost Burden*:

Forms EIA-23L/23S/64A: EIA estimates that there are no capital and start-up costs associated with this data collection. The information is maintained in the normal course of business. The cost of burden hours to the respondents is estimated to be \$2,965,884 (41,210 burden hours times \$71.97 per hour). Therefore, other than the cost of burden hours, EIA estimates that there are no additional costs for generating, maintaining and providing the information.

**Statutory Authority:** Section 13(b) of the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974, Pub. L. 93-275, codified at 15 U.S.C. 772(b).

Issued in Washington, DC, September 18, 2015.

**Nanda Srinivasan,**

*Director, Office of Survey Development and Statistical Integration, U.S. Energy Information Administration.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. EL15-101-000]

#### RC Cape May Holdings, LLC; Notice of Institution of Section 206 Proceeding and Refund Effective Date

On September 21, 2015, the Commission issued an order in Docket No. EL15-101-000, pursuant to section 206 of the Federal Power Act (FPA), 16 U.S.C. 824e (2012), instituting an investigation into the justness and reasonableness of RC Cape May Holdings, LLC's Reactive Power Schedule. *RC Cape May Holdings, LLC*, 152 FERC ¶ 61,224 (2015).

The refund effective date in Docket No. EL15-101-000, established pursuant to section 206(b) of the FPA, will be the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: September 21, 2015.

**Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ER15-2582-000]

#### Carousel Wind Farm, LLC; Supplemental Notice That Initial Market-Based Rate Filing Includes Request for Blanket Section 204 Authorization

This is a supplemental notice in the above-referenced proceeding of Carousel Wind Farm, LLC's application for market-based rate authority, with an accompanying rate tariff, noting that such application includes a request for blanket authorization, under 18 CFR part 34, of future issuances of securities and assumptions of liability.

Any person desiring to intervene or to protest should file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888